

Message Text

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14-11

ACTION EUR-12

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1303

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 2150

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR NATO UR CH

SUBJ: SINO-SOVIET RELATIONS

CANADIAN DELEGATION HAS CIRCULATED TO POLADS FOLLOWING PAPER
ON SINO-SOVIET RELATIONS BASED ON REPORTS FROM CANADIAN
EMBASSIES IN PEKING AND MOSCOW.

BEGIN TEXT:

THE CANADIAN EMBASSY IN PEKING REPORTED ON APRIL 9 THAT
SOVIET DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER ILYICHOV WOULD SHORTLY BE
RETURNING TO MOSCOW CARRYING WITH HIM THE CHINESE RESPONSE TO
THE SOVIET PROPOSALS RELATING TO THEIR BORDER TALKS. SINCE
HIS ARRIVAL IN FEBRUARY, ILYICHOV HAD BEEN MEETING REGULARLY
TWO OR THREE TIMES A WEEK WITH THE PRC VICE FOREIGN MINISTER.
APPARENTLY BOTH SIDES HAVE AGREED TO DISCUSS THE BORDER PROBLEM
AREA BY DISPUTED AREA AND THERE IS NO SERIOUS DISAGREEMENT ON
AN ACTUAL BORDER SETTLEMENT, WITH THE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF
KHABAROVSK. HOWEVER THERE REMAINS THE SEMANTIC QUESTION OF
WHETHER OR NOT THERE IS A BORDER ISSUE TO BE SETTLED AND THIS
REMAINS A SERIOUS OBSTACLE TO AGREEMENT. IN THE VIEW OF THE
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CANADIAN EMBASSY IN PEKING IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO SAY WHETHER
THIS MIGHT INDICATE A WARMING OF SINO-SOVIET RELATIONS, SINCE
THE TALKS HAVE CONTINUED AGAINST A BACKGROUND OF A FAIRLY
VITUPERATIVE AND SUSTAINED CHINESE PRESS CAMPAIGN AGAINST SOVIET

IMPERIALIST WICKEDNESS.

THE CANADIAN EMBASSY IN MOSCOW SUBSEQUENTLY COMMENTED THAT IF THERE WAS ANY QUOTE GIVE UNQUOTE IN SINO-SOVIET RELATIONS, THIS WAS NOT APPARENT FROM A MOSCOW VANTAGE POINT. THE SOVIET PROPAGANDA BARRAGE HAS CONTINUED IN BOTH THE PRESS AND THE RADIO AND SOVIET OFFICIALS ARE CONTINUING TO REPEAT THE USUAL LINE.

IN A DISCUSSION WITH THE CANADIAN AMBASSADOR, THE CHINESE AMBASSADOR DISCUSSED SINO-SOVIET RELATIONS IN A STRONGLY ANTI-SOVIET TONE AND CONTENT. HE CLAIMED ILYICHOV HAD COME TO PEKING WITH NOTHING IN HIS BAGGAGE AND WOULD GO HOME EMPTY HANDED. SO LONG AS THE PRESENT LEADERSHIP OF THE USSR REMAINED IN OFFICE, THERE WAS NO CHANCE OF A CHANGE IN POLICY TOWARDS THE PRC. MEMBERS OF THE CANADIAN EMBASSY HAD ALSO BEEN TOLD BY CHINESE OFFICIALS THAT, IN THEIR VIEW, THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT HAD SENT ILYICHOV TO PEKING PRIMARILY IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN AN ILLUSION VIS-A-VIS THE USA THAT A COMPLETE STALEMATE IN SINO-SOVIET RELATIONS DID NOT EXIST.

END TEXT. BRUCE

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